

Message Text

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INFO DIA WASHDC

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USMISSION GENEVA

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

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USSALTTWO

DIA SEE PARA 5 FOR IR DATA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, MBFR, SALT, UR, US

SUBJECT: SOVIETS CONDEMN US FBS AGAIN

1. 12 MAY RED STAR CARRIES A FEATURE ARTICLE BY IUSAC STAFFER L. SEMEYKO ENTITLED "THE SINISTER CHAIN: CONCERNING THE FORWARD BASED MEANS OF THE USA". THIS COMMENTARY . REVIEWS VARIOUS CURRENT AND PROJECTED US FORWARD-BASED SYSTEMS, WITH EMPHASIS UPON EUROPE, AND IDENTIFIES THEM AS POSING " A SERIOUS THREAT TO THE SECURITY OF THE SOVIET UNION".

2. SEMEYKO PRESENTS A NEW SOVIET PUBLIC POSITION ON US FBS IN SAYING THAT IN THE US THESE WEAPONS ARE CALLED "MINI-STRATEGIC", "GREY AREA" DELIVERY SYSTEMS WHICH CAN
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FULFILL BOTH TACTICAL AND STRATEGIC MISSIONS. HE STATES THAT THE CURRENT US FBS ARSENAL INCLUDES: LAND BASED TACTICAL AIRCRAFT - F-4, F-111, F-15 AND SOON F-16 IN WESTERN EUROPE AND ASIA; PERSHING SURFACE-TO-SURFACE MISSILES IN WESTERN EUROPE; AND STRIKE AIRCRAFT ON CARRIERS CRUISING WITHIN RANGE OF THE USSR. THESE SYSTEMS ARE SAID TO SERVE AS A "BRIDGE" BETWEEN TACTICAL, BATTLEFIELD

WEAPONS AND STRATEGIC MEANS.

3. THE AUTHOR CLAIMS THAT THE US HAS CONTINUALLY IMPROVED THESE STRIKE MEANS OVER THE PAST THREE DECADES. HE CITES PRM-10 AND RECENT STATEMENTS BY SEC DEF BROWN TO UNDERLINE CONTINUED US EFFORTS TO MODERNIZE THEM. SEMEYKO EXPRESSES CONCERN ABOUT ALLEGED US AND NATO INTENTIONS TO DEPLOY CRUISE MISSILES WITH RANGES GREATER THAN 600 KM IN WESTERN EUROPE, DESCRIBING THIS AS A "SERIOUS STRENGTHENING" OF FBS AND "SIGNIFICANT GROWTH" IN NATO'S NUCLEAR MIGHT. THE AUTHOR ALSO DECRIES US STATEMENTS ABOUT AND INITIAL DEVELOPMENT OF NEW MEDIUM AND INTERMEDIATE RANGE BALLISTIC MISSILES FOR POSSIBLE DEPLOYMENT IN EUROPE WHICH, HE SAYS, WOULD ALTER BOTH THE REGIONAL AND STRATEGIC BALANCE BETWEEN THE US AND USSR.

4. COMMENT: MOST NOTEWORTHY IN THIS PIECE IS THE DISTINCTION SEMEYKO DRAWS BETWEEN THE FBS AND STRATEGIC WEAPONS OF THE US. WHILE REPEATING THE FAMILIAR LINE THAT US FORWARD-BASED SYSTEMS CAN BE USED IN A STRATEGIC ROLE TO ATTACK THE SOVIET UNION, SEMEYKO EXPRESSLY DIFFERENTIATES THESE "GREY AREA" WEAPONS FROM US STRATEGIC FORCES WHICH THEY ARE SAID TO SUPPLEMENT. BY TREATING US FBS IN THIS MANNER, SEMEYKO, PERHAPS INADVERTENTLY, REINFORCES THE ARGUMENT THAT FBS ARE NOT PROPERLY EQUATED WITH INTERCONTINENTAL STRIKE MEANS BUT RATHER ARE MORE APPRO-

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PRIATELY GROUPED WITH COMPARABLE SOVIET "GREY AREA" SYSTEMS LIKE THE SS-20 OR BACKFIRE IN SALT III OR OTHER ARMS LIMITATION NEGOTIATIONS. NEVERTHELESS, THIS ARTICLE UNDERLINES ONCE AGAIN SOVIET CONCERN ABOUT THE SERIOUS THREAT TO THEIR SECURITY POSED BY FBS, PARTICULARLY IF EXPANDED BY MAJOR CRUISE MISSILES DEPLOYMENTS OR A NEW IR OR MRBM BASED IN EUROPE. AS SUCH, IT PROVIDES JUSTIFICATION FOR THEIR RAISING FBS ONCE AGAIN IN SALT III.

5. IR DATA: 1. USSR (UR), 2. 6 901 0459 78, 3. SOVIETS CONDEMN US FBS AGAIN, 4. OMITTED, 5. 780512, 6. 780512, 7. 780512, MOSCOW USSR, 8. CIR: 1D19000, 9. C-3, 10. USDAO MOSCOW USSR (AIRA), 11. YES, 12. EDWARD L. WARNER, MAJ, USAF, AAIRA, 13. RICHARD X. LARKIN, BG, USA, DATT, 14. SOVIET OPEN PRESS - RED STAR, 15. NON-DIRC.TOON

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